

Spotlight on Cherokee . . .

Cherokee County was named for the Cherokee Indians who once made it their home. It was formed in 1897 from parts of Spartanburg, Union, and York counties, and the county seat is Gaffney. During the Revolutionary War, the battle of Cowpens, an important victory for the revolutionary forces, took place there on January 17, 1781. Iron mining was an important activity in this region up to the time of the Civil War, and it is sometimes called the Old Iron District. In the mid-nineteenth century, the resort at Limestone Springs was a popular retreat for lowcountry planters. Writer Wilbur Joseph Cash (1901-1941) was a native of Cherokee County, as is actress Andie MacDowell.

Gaffney Workforce Center

133 Wilmac Road, P O Box 1270
Gaffney, SC 29342
(863) 489-3112 / FAX: (863) 488-9280

Location & Climate

- Located in the northern area of the state
- Surrounded by Spartanburg, Union, and York counties, with North Carolina to the north
- This region has an average temperature of 58.7 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 48.7 inches.

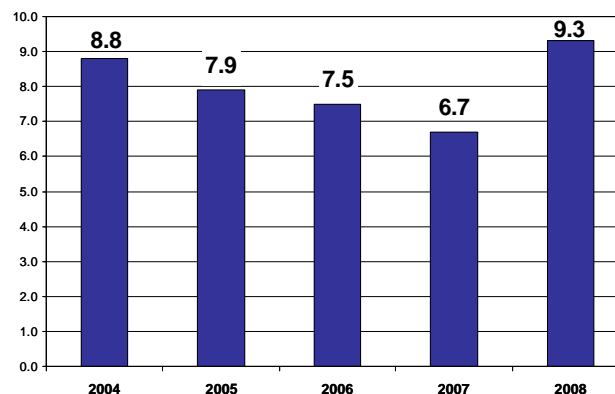
Population

- Was 53,930 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 58,780 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 77.5% White, 20.8% African-American, and 1.7% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population increased from 1,092 in 2000 to 1,501 in 2007, a 37.5% change.

Labor Force

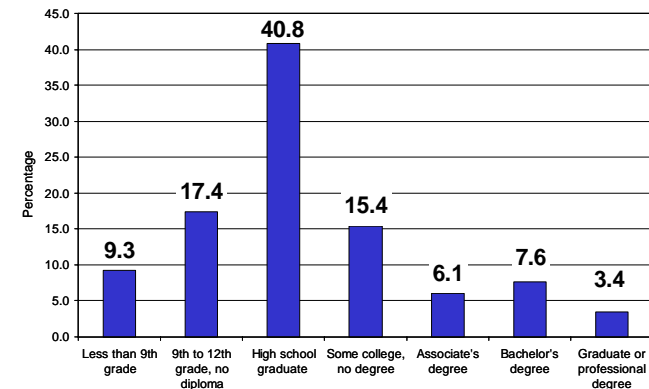
- Increased from 25,300 in 2007 to 25,580 in 2008
- Employment dropped from 23,610 in 2007 to 23,200 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate rose from 6.7% in 2007 to 9.3% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Cherokee County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Cherokee County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$24,790 for 2007.
- This was 80% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 64% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Gaffney Workforce Center, which serves Cherokee County, paid \$10,633,566 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



SC Employment Security Commission Labor Market Information

P O Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)

<http://www.sces.org/lmi>

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